ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR EVERYONE

King County Elections • Outreach Team • 500 Fourth Ave Rm. 553 • Seattle, WA 98104 206-296-9699 • www.metrokc.gov/elections/access • Issue 10

King County Advocacy Fair

Seattle Center • Seattle, WA • July 29, 2006



The King County Advocacy Fair, held at the Seattle Center, provided a valuable opportunity for the King County Elections Outreach Team to reach many organizations and individuals who will benefit from the new accessible voting unit (AVU) equipment.

The AVU can assist voters with disabilities when casting their private, independent ballot. Voters with limited or no vision can use the audio ballot while those with manual dexterity limitations can benefit from the touch screen ballot. Many Advocacy Fair attendees had one or both types of disabilities.

The King County Elections' booth was set up at an easily accessible location inside the hall. Voters stopped in, asked questions and received materials about the AVU from the team.

Audience:

80 individuals with visual, mental and physical disabilities

Arc of King County, 206-364-6337

Many interesting individuals stopped by the Elections booth at the Advocacy Fair, one in particular named Sharron Jodock-King, who suffers from cerebral palsy. Sharron communicates easily with a word board and does not have a great deal of mobility, causing her to travel in a motorized wheelchair. Sharron was easily able to access the AVU, and using headphones and the audio ballot, vote an independent ballot using the machine's keypad. Sharron was overjoyed by her ability to vote all by herself and is looking forward to using the equipment in the next election.



Voters at the Advocacy Fair are looking forward to using the accessible voting unit in the future.